

Commercial Advertiser

FRIDAY : : : MARCH 17.

FARMERS AND LAND.

It is plain from the demand which follows the opening, or projected opening of any of the public lands of Hawaii, that the Government could settle up the country if it would. Despite what the large landholders say and what their satellites affirm, the people have a distinct faith in their capacity to make a living from the soil. They want land to build homes upon and to till. Since the Advertiser began its opening-up agitation, the volume of small products has vastly increased in Hawaii. So many people have gone into poultry that eggs are cheaper now than ever before, interest has become acute not only in farms, but in cultivable villa sites, a rubber plantation has been started, the pineapple and sisal area increased, good tobacco has been cultivated, the vanilla experiment has attracted notice from practical farmers and a large banana industry has been created where before were jungles of lantana or indigenous growths. All that this spirit needs to make itself the means of redeeming Hawaii from primitive disuse, is the marketing in small tracts of the public lands not needed for sugar or forestry, as fast as they become available. The curse of any country are large, uncultivated estates; and if those we have in Hawaii could be broken up by the adoption of the New Zealand law, which puts the heaviest taxes on unused land held for speculation, the result would be seen in an enormous accretion of taxes and in the Americanization of the Territory. It is almost criminal to leave that principality of loam which one looks down upon from the Pali, to the occupancy of lantana and guava, but only the New Zealand law can force its owners and lessees to let go in this generation.

Despite all opposition and drawbacks, however, things are slowly moving toward diversified farming, and public sentiment is steadily rolling up against the old feudal system. We shall have an Americanized Territory yet. Fortunately, the Government, through Mr. Pratt, is giving some help and in time we shall expect to see its energies directed toward the great colonization enterprises for which the country waits.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

St. Patrick's Day is a good, old, joyous holiday of the sort that inspires patriotism, promotes good feeling and cements friendship.

Is there any reason why the Fourth of July should not be more like it? Of all the stiff, formal, too-much-of-a-bore celebrations the year affords, that of the Fourth of July is the most obnoxious. There is nothing in it to compare with the St. Patrick's Day banquet, with the miscellaneous literary feast and ball and with the general good time among neighbors. St. Patrick's Day in Honolulu is as much alive within its circle as an Irish jig; the Fourth of July with us is usually a Memory, walking in its sleep. Hurrah for the 17th of Ireland.

The spirit of Patrick, which the followers of Ireland's patron saint invoke today, ought to feel at home in Hawaii. Here also is an emerald isle; here also is a snakeless paradise; here also the potheen gurgles, a well-spring to the thirsty soul; here also is a Home Rule party and absentee landlords and quite a number of the sassanach. Surely St. Patrick will feel good when he drops down from the clouds for his annual visit—that foine oid gentlemán saint—

Whose fulness of the vest
Betokens that his victuals, and
his spirits are the best.

It is curious how the old crowd of Territorial circuit judges should have persisted, when abroad, in calling themselves United States circuit judges. The claim, which is only advanced to mainland newspaper reporters, rested chiefly upon the fact that their salary envelopes from Washington came so addressed—a blunder of some clerk or typewriter. Not one these judges, in their island capacity, ever tried a Federal case. Their functions were purely Territorial, as are those of their successors, the present judges. The fact that the United States paid them did not confer the honor of a Federal circuit judgeship upon the many more than the fact that the United States paid the Territorial Chief Justice and his associates, made the latter members of the United States Supreme Court.

The big stick attitude of the Central Committee toward the Legislature does not frighten the Senators. They know a stuffed club from the real thing.

Senator Dickey's remark: "If the baby wants the razor, give it to him," describes, in a very terse way, the argument for the County Act.

One battle in Manchuria makes the whole Spanish war look like a Sunday picnic.

ANTI-VACCINATION BILL.

It would seem that native children are dying off fast enough now without exposing them to the perils of smallpox, as the Kaniho bill proposes to do. Every Legislature has developed a number of native statesmen who have an unreasoning fear of vaccination, due to some legendary accidents which happened before the custom of inoculating one man from another was discarded. They want to repeal the compulsory feature of the vaccination law, forgetting the time, not so very long ago, when 3000 of their number in Honolulu were swept off the face of the earth by smallpox. There is an attempt to make the natives believe that the vaccination law is intended for them alone, which is absurd, whites as well as Hawaiians being amenable to it. The writer of these lines is not an exception among other white men here in being vaccinated and the children of white parents in the public schools, without exception, had been vaccinated before they could register. Smallpox is a disease which often comes to this port, and if it ever gets a start among unvaccinated natives it will kill ten where leprosy has killed one. The best comment to make upon the Kaniho bill is that whom the gods would destroy they first make mad.

Evidently Kuropatkin did not wait to be cut in the pass, as that important point has been occupied by the Japanese, who are now pursuing and fighting the enemy. Kuropatkin is breaking for re-enforcements, which must be now on their way by rail. There are signs that Oyama's enveloping movement put a strong force north of where the Russians are now, and that there is danger of Kuropatkin being captured. That is probably what is meant by the afternoon dispatch from St. Petersburg saying that his position is critical.

Senator Morgan's disappointment about the choice of Panama over Nicaragua for the canal does not subside and he predicts that the Panama canal will never be built. The old gentleman should watch Roosevelt. The President has four years to work in and he desires, above most other things, to make a record at Panama which will be the crowning feature of his administration. If the canal isn't half done by 1909 it will not be the fault of the strenuous man in the White House.

The repeal of all the restrictive laws about liquor and gambling, by the Nevada Legislature, will make the sagebrush State as picturesque as it was in the days of the Comstock lode. The object probably is to make Nevada a Monte Carlo and thus bring prosperity to the moribund towns that stand on the wreck of the old silver mines. Several "cities" are going to be built on the new Salt Lake and Los Angeles railroad line, which, under the inspiration of the wide-open policy, will probably revive the most precious memories of "the roaring seventies."

Surprise is expressed that Alaskan farmers should have done so well with the flower and vegetable seeds sent them by the Department of Agriculture. But the initiated know that some of the finest wheat in North America has been raised in the Mackenzie river valley away up towards the arctic circle. It is warm there for about six weeks in the year and during that time, with the help of twenty hours per day of sunlight, the crop reaches maturity.

As a clinch bill the measure to tax the gross premiums of insurance policies four per cent takes its place easily at the head of the cortege.

The Russian army must regret, as keenly as the Czar does, that he parted so soon from The Hague.

BRITAIN FEARS WATER FAMINE.

Past Year Has Been Exceptionally Dry—Towns to Restrict Supply.

LONDON, Mar. 2.—The United Kingdom seems to be threatened with a water famine in the year 1905. Last year was exceptionally dry and the deficiency since Jan. 1 has been considerable, except in the northern portion of Scotland.

Many large towns in all parts of the country, but especially in the midlands are beginning to be alarmed over the situation. It is estimated that Leicester has 700,000,000 gallons less stored than in February last year. Some towns are actually contemplating the restriction of the supply, which is a very unusual step to take except in the driest of summers.

Mr. Latham, an expert in the matter of rainfall, points out that the records show that during the last century all years ending with the numerals 4 or 5 except 1894 and 1895 were periods of lower water than usual. He admits that possibly this is a mere coincidence, but it is a remarkable fact that wells from which the records are taken in different parts of the country tend to increase in depth of water toward the end of every decade, while they are lowest in the middle of each period of ten years.

FIREMEN'S EXHIBITION

(Continued from page 1.)

about five feet from the ground. As each man alighted from the exercises already described, he gracefully swung himself to the ground from the netting in a back handspring.

Leaving the rope fastened to the top of the tower, the next performance was that of hose-laying. The fire ladders to man the hose wagon and also to rally to a steam fire engine retired to their bunks upstairs. When all was ready, Senator Isenberg and Commissioner Hustace standing by with stop watches, the gong sounded and quicker than it takes to tell a hose wagon was out of the Beretania street front and speeding around the corner to a hydrant up Fort street. At the same time a team had been harnessed to an engine, but did not leave the building. Soon the hose wagon came clattering into the yard at the rear, the boys pulled at the slack end of the needed length, the scaling ladders were manned, the pendant rope was put in service and, like a flash, the nozzle of the hose poked itself into the grip of a fireman at the summit of the tower.

From the sounding of the gong to the placing of the nozzle, with 750 feet of hose connecting it to the hydrant, in position of service at the top of the tower just three minutes and twenty-one seconds (3:21) had elapsed. This was a second slower than the firemen had done in former practice.

Exercises with the Hayes truck ground extension ladder were next given, the firemen getting to the top of the tower of the main building in 28 seconds from the order to raise the ladder. This implement is in two sections of equal length, one telescoping into the other. Four men were upon it at once on this occasion, but it will bear six or seven men at a time.

Last of all there was leaping into the life-giving net. One man jumped from the lowest window of the practice tower, a height of about 15 feet. Another took the leap from the second window, thirty feet high. Each landed in the circular sheet of rubbery which comrades held up by its iron rim, coming down in sitting posture with a resounding swat and then, with an agile vault over the ring, came to "attention" with feet upon the ground.

Many expressions of admiration for the performances of the fire-fighters were heard. "The boys earn their money, you bet," a legislator was heard to say.

KOREAN EMPEROR A CATHOLIC.

CHICAGO, March 2.—A special from Kobe says: "According to the Osaka Mainichi's Seoul correspondent, the Korean Emperor has become a convert to Roman Catholicism and has requested the Seoul Catholic Mission to receive him formally into the church."

THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF HAWAII. Bound in law calf, sent postage prepaid to any address in the United States for \$5 a copy. Copies can be had at the Gazette office.

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These are among the prettiest of the new Spring goods and you will find them novelties that will make up in a very stunning manner. Among the daintiest are plain, figured and short effects.

\$25c. a yard.

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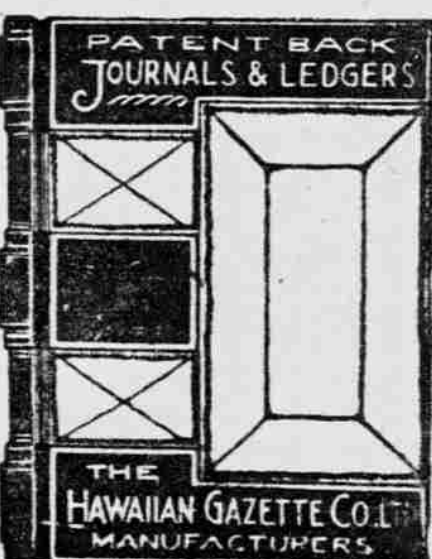
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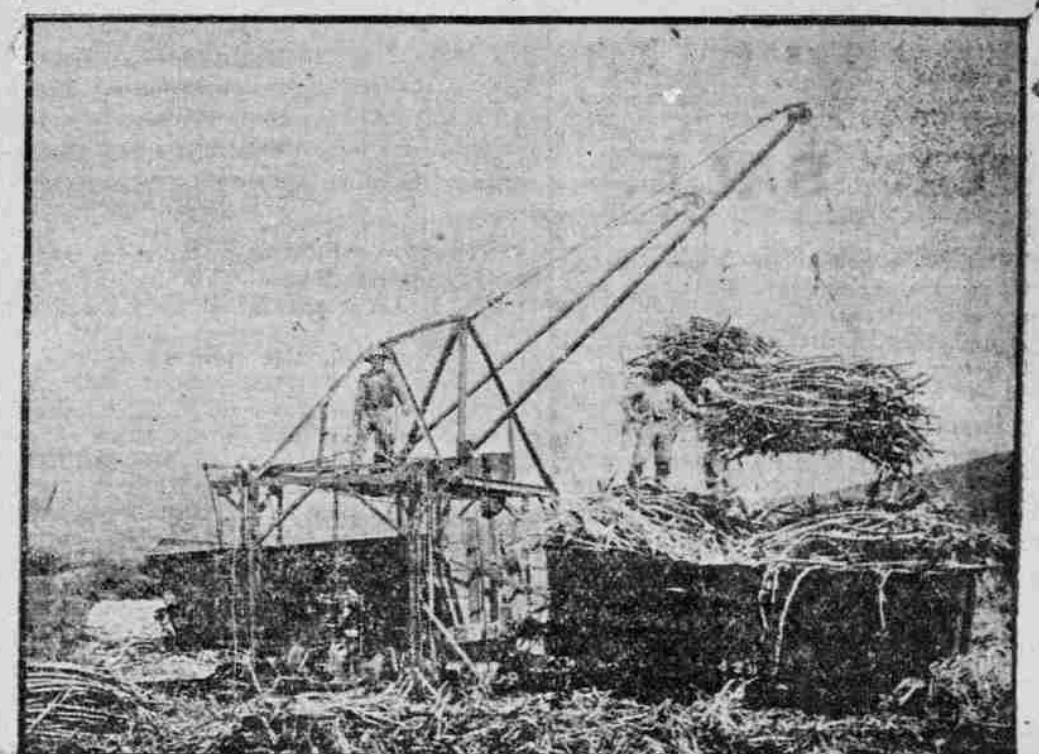
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You can't talk merrily and wittily through shadows. In a half-lighted room, conversation, by an actual law of physics, takes on a sombre tone. Grayness and sadness and quietness seem to be the three melancholy graces that preside over some firesides; but they are never the household deities where electric lights are used, for a kind, clear, vivid light wipes out dingy corners and solemn reflections, and lack of human sympathy.

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